

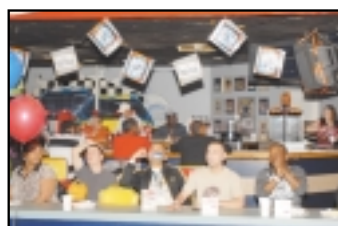
THE FRONTLINE

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Serving the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities (www.stewart.army.mil)

February 5, 2009



Football fans get
kick out of on-
post party
See Page 1C

24th Ord is home

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Public Affairs

It was a tearful reunion when the Soldiers of the 24th Ordnance Company, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade made their long awaited return from Iraq, Feb. 1 at Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Benning, Ga.

The 143 Soldiers came back together after being spread apart in

Baghdad and western and southern Iraq over the past 15-months. The Soldiers were responsible for conducting and operating numerous ammunition supply points across Iraq as well as supporting their fellow war fighters with more than a million tons of ammunition.

The Family Members and friends of these Soldiers waited anxiously in the gym. For them and their Soldiers, this day couldn't have come any sooner.

See RETURN Page 3A

Big changes set for Vanguard Brigade

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th BCT Public Affairs

With their recent return from Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers in the 4th Brigade Combat Team are set to begin implementing big changes within the next few months.

The Vanguard Brigade is slated to begin the process of transforming from a heavy brigade combat team to an infantry brigade combat team after the brigade's official change of command ceremony set for March 19.

This transformation means the brigade will transition from being a heavy brigade, equipped with armor and mechanized infantry, to a different composition centered on light infantry.

"What it means for me in going light is no (M1 Abrams) tanks," said Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander. "You no longer have that heavy equipment, those heavy vehicles, and you're more light infantry focused, and you will have vehicles to be able to get to the fight but you won't have tanks and (M2 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles)."

See 4BCT Page 7A

3rd ID salutes 'Year of the NCO'

Sgt. Joseph McAtee
3rd ID Public Affairs

Exemplifying outstanding qualities as a noncommissioned officer, Corporal Corey B. Burke, 1st Brigade Combat Team, is an ideal illustration of the intent behind making 2009 the Year of the NCO.

The Secretary of the Army Pete Geren has designated

2009 as the Year of the NCO, a year designed to enhance readiness, recognize the leadership of the NCO Corps and inform the American public of the accomplishments that NCOs achieve on a regular basis.

With that in mind, our spotlight on distinguished NCOs begins with Burke, a dismount team leader with 1BCT.

See NCO Page 7A

Barracks go contract

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

One more month and the First Sergeant Barracks Initiative will begin its implementation phase. To prepare for that big day, FSBI's key players conducted a Rehearsal of Concepts drill at Club Stewart's Liberty Lounge, Jan. 29.

"To develop a program of this

proportion takes time and manpower," Doug Delzeith, acting Single Soldier Housing Manager, told the small group of stakeholders, special guests and visitors.

Delzeith briefly summarized the tremendous effort made by the FSBI Task Force stakeholders and FSBI team members in developing their own FSBI standard operating procedures.

See FSBI Page 7A



Spc. Dustin Gautney

2nd BCT farewells CSM Berhane

2nd Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Berhane bids farewell to the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart after serving on Fort Stewart for 14 years during his 26 year career at a ceremony at Marne Garden, Jan. 29. See story on Page 12A.



**Job fair provides
employment
assistance**
See Page 1B

Suicide at all time high
See Page 2A

**Experience the
Big Buck Gala,
Venison Cook-
Off**
See Page 1B



Prime time to experience distinctive traditions

Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews
3rd ID Command Sgt. Maj.

My last Marne 7 Sends was dedicated to congratulating the noncommissioned officer corps. In the past, I've recognized our veterans, and now I want to bring focus to Black History Month. We have one of the most diverse work environments in the world, and collectively our racial backgrounds and experiences set us apart from other career fields.

Every month, we recognize cultural differences to educate and build camaraderie, but also to inspire pride in tradition and heritage. Be proud of who you are and where you come from. Within all races, there are prominent people, but also remember your own lineage and community. Never forget the people who helped mold you into the adult you are – your

Family, neighbors and church members. We enjoy certain music, food and recreation based on how we were raised. Although we are now part of a melting pot, you should not lose your individuality.

The national 2009 Black History Month theme is "Quest for Black Citizenship in the America's." Most Americans are familiar with the Buffalo Soldiers, who were the first peacetime all-black regiment in the Army. They were first given the nickname by Native Americans who compared their bravery and valiant fighting style to that of the buffalo. However, blacks, both free and enslaved, served with distinction



in major conflicts during the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Dating back to the Civil War, equal rights as a U.S. citizen was the goal of blacks, and throughout their struggles they continued to strive and contribute toward a better way of life for

Americans. More than 68 life-changing inventions were patented by blacks between 1839 and 1949 when Frederick M. Jones invented the mobile refrigeration system. Other famous African-Americans include Daniel H. Williams, the first African-

American to perform open heart surgery, and the list continues with social activists, philanthropists, scientists, entrepreneurs, athletes, entertainers, military leaders and politicians.

The challenges that most of them went through to get fame, recognition or support motivates me to challenge myself. Know that through their trials and tribulations, we have more opportunities to achieve our goals.

Come out and enjoy the Black History Month observance program, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 19 at Club Stewart. Read the Frontline Newspaper to find out what other events are happening to celebrate Black History Month, or visit the Savannah Black Heritage Festival going on this month. This is the prime opportunity for everyone, regardless of race to learn more or just enjoy distinctive traditions in music, art, literature, religion, and cuisine.

U.S. Army releases 2008 suicide data, highlights prevention

Courtesy US Army Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - The Army released its 2008 data on suicides, Jan. 29 and highlighted its efforts to reduce suicides in the force.

"We want the Families who have lost loved ones to suicide to understand how deeply we feel their loss and that we are committed to doing everything possible to prevent this tragedy in our Army," said Secretary of the Army Pete Geren. "Progress depends on coordinated efforts across our entire Army - across all components, jurisdictions and commands, and on effective work with our government partners - the VA and the National Institute of Mental Health. To ensure the level of leadership and coordination we need, Gen. [George W.] Casey, [chief of staff of the Army], and I have asked Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, to lead our efforts and ensure that we are working together effectively and that we do everything we can as rapidly as possible."

To identify Soldiers at risk for suicide and to intervene appropriately, the Army will conduct a stand-down within a 30-day window running Feb. 15 to March 15. The stand-down will include training for peer-level recognition of behaviors that may lead to suicidal behavior and intervention at the buddy level. The stand-down will be followed by a chain-teaching program focused on suicide prevention, from March 15 to June 15.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Army has seen an increase in suicide rates. There were 128 suicides last year in the active Army, with another 15 cases still pending a determination, according to data compiled by Army human resources officials. This was up from 115 suicides in 2007.

Over the past two years, the Army has increased its efforts, and has enhanced resources and initiatives aimed at identifying and mitigating the causes of suicidal behavior. Key to these efforts is eliminating the stigma associated with seeking mental health care. "We need to help our Soldiers and their Families

understand that it's OK to ask for help," said Chiarelli.

Additionally, the Army is in the process of implementing a Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, which will enhance resiliency and develop a total fitness program for Soldiers, Families, and civilians to help them thrive in an era of high operational tempo and persistent conflict. Programs are also being offered to help Soldiers deal with difficult situations and circumstances.

The Army's BATTLEMIND training helps prepare Soldiers and their Families for the stressors of war, and also assists with the detection of possible mental health issues before and after deployment. It informs them about the common signs and symptoms they may experience when readjusting after a combat deployment. "Strong Bonds" is a specialized training program for single Soldiers, couples, and Families to assist them with communication tactics to improve relationships and build skills that enhance relationships and strengthen resiliency.

Leveraging the

expertise of the NIMH, the Army and NIMH signed an agreement in Oct. 2008 to conduct long-term research to identify factors impacting the mental and behavioral health of Soldiers and to share intervention and mitigation strategies that will help decrease suicides. During the study, which is expected to last five years, the NIMH may interview Soldiers, their Families, and their parents. The study will include Soldiers from each component of the force - active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Black History Month observance program

Poetry Night at Rocky's • 7-10 p.m. Feb 19

Black History Month Observance
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Feb. 24
at Club Stewart, featuring Sgt.
Maj. William M. Grant, Chief
Enlisted Management NCO, Office
of Infantry Proponency, Fort
Benning, Ga.



For more information, call Master Sgt. Dawn Charleswell at 767-3247.

A moment in Marne History: Knappenberger, Peden receive MOH

Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

During World War II a number of Soldiers distinguished themselves, going above and beyond the call of duty. Several of them earned the Army's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. Two such men serving the 3rd Infantry Division were Pfc. Alton Knappenberger and Technician 5th Grade Forrest Peden.

Pfc. Alton Knappenberger, Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, born in Cooperstown, Pa., distinguished himself near the town of Cisterna di Littoria, Italy on Feb. 1, 1944. His citations said the medal was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action involving actual conflict with the enemy. The citation said when a heavy German counterattack was launched against his battalion, Pfc. Knappenberger crawled to an exposed knoll and went into position with his automatic rifle. An enemy machinegun 85 yards away opened fire, and bullets struck within six inches of him. Rising to a kneeling position, Knappenberger opened fire on the hostile crew, knocked out the gun and killed two members of the crew, wounding the third crewman. While he fired at this hostile position, two Germans crawled to a point within 20 yards of the knoll and threw potato-masher grenades at him, but Knappenberger killed them

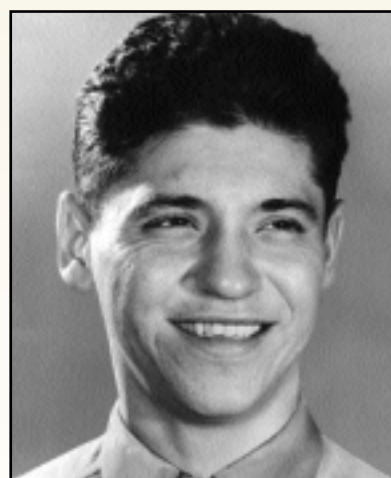
both with one burst from his automatic rifle.

Later, a second machinegun opened fire upon his exposed position from a distance of 100 yards, and this weapon also was silenced by his well-aimed shots. Shortly thereafter, an enemy 20mm. anti-aircraft gun directed fire at him, and again Knappenberger returned fire to wound one member of the hostile crew. Under tank and artillery shellfire, with shells bursting within 15 yards of him, he held his precarious position and fired at all enemy infantrymen armed with machine pistols and machineguns that he could locate. When his ammunition supply became exhausted, he crawled 15 yards forward through steady machinegun fire, removed rifle clips from the belt of a casualty, returned to his position and resumed firing to repel an assaulting German platoon armed with automatic weapons. Finally, his ammunition supply being completely exhausted, he rejoined his company. Knappenberger's intrepid action disrupted the enemy attack for over two hours.

Technician 5th Grade Forrest Peden,

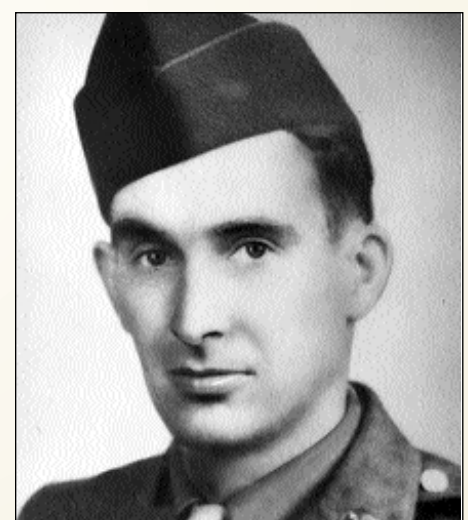
Battery C, 10th Field Artillery Battalion, born in Saint Joseph, Mont. earn the Medal of Honor for distinguishing himself near the town of Biesheim, France, Feb. 3, 1945. His citation said he was a forward artillery observer when the group of about 45 infantrymen with whom he was advancing was ambushed in the uncertain light of a waning moon. Enemy forces outnumbering the Americans by four to one poured withering artillery, mortar, machinegun, and small-arms fire into the stricken unit from the flanks. The fire forced the men to seek the cover of a ditch, which they found already occupied by enemy foot troops.

As the opposing infantrymen struggled in hand-to-hand combat, Technician Peden courageously went to the assistance of two wounded Soldiers and rendered first aid under heavy fire. With radio communications inoperative, he realized that the unit would be wiped out unless help could be secured from the rear. On his own initiative, he ran 800 yards to the battalion command post through a hail of bullets, which pierced his jacket, and there secured



**Pfc. Alton
Knappenberger**

two light tanks to go to the relief of his hard-pressed comrades. Knowing the terrible risk involved, he climbed upon the hull of the lead tank and guided it into battle. Through a murderous concentration of fire, the tank lumbered onward, bullets and shell fragments ricocheting from its steel armor within inches of the completely exposed rider, until it reached the ditch. As it was about to go into action, it was turned into a flaming pyre by a direct hit, which killed Technician Peden. However, his intrepidity and gallant sacrifice was not in vain. Attracted by the light from the burning tank, reinforcements found the beleaguered Americans and drove off the enemy.



**Technician 5th Grade
Forrest Peden**

Home at last!



Photos by Spc. Gaelen Lowers

More than 140 Soldiers from 24th Ord. Co., 87th CSSB returned to Hunter Army Airfield Feb. 1 following recent service during Operation Iraqi Freedom V. During their deployment they were responsible for conducting and operating numerous ammunition supply points across Iraq in addition to other missions.

RETURN

From Page 1A

"We're really excited. I don't think any of us really slept much last night," said Jessica Brown, wife of Spc. Michael Brown, 24th Ordnance Co. She sat next to Michael Brown, Jr., their three-and-a-half year-old son, and Allison Brown, their nine-month old daughter.

For husband and wife, Staff Sgt. Kelvin Mason and Staff Sgt. Cynthia Mason, both of the 24th Ordnance Co., this is more than just redeployment; it's a reuniting of their Family. Both were deployed together while their son, K.J., was cared for by a close family friend. Upon seeing their son for the first time in many months, both Kelvin and Cynthia burst into tears.

Like Kelvin and Cynthia, others couldn't keep their emotions from flooding over them at the sight of their Soldiers marching into the

Tominac Fitness Center on Hunter Army Airfield.

"Words really can't describe it," Jessy Caspen, wife of 1st Lt. Tim Caspen, said through her tears. "I'm overjoyed. This is very emotional, a very long time coming."

Col. Shawn M. Morrissey, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, expressed his gratitude for this great company and all of their accomplishments.

"I want to thank you for all that you have done over these past 15 months," said Morrissey. "Be safe, and welcome home."

Of the 143 Soldiers that returned back from Iraq, 60 were stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, while 83 at station at Fort Benning. The company is scheduled to consolidate permanently at Fort Stewart, Ga. during the summer of 2009.

Below: Staff Sergeant Cynthia Mason and her son KJ leave Tominac Fitness Center Feb. 1 soon after Mason returned from her 15-month deployment to Iraq.



Sgt. Terry Barber, 24th Ord. Co., kisses his fiancée Courtney Walsh, Feb. 1 at the Hunter Army Airfield Welcome home ceremony held at Tominac Fitness Center.

Right: Soldiers and Family Members cheer as Soldiers of the 24th Ord. Co., 87th CSSB, 3rd Sustainment Bde. return from supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, during a welcome home ceremony at Hunter Army Airfield, Feb. 1.



Barracks Life: Enjoy the surrounding areas

Commentary by:
Spc. Michael Adams
3rd ID Public Affairs

Having an active lifestyle outside of the day-to-day grind of the Army is not only good for the welfare of a Soldier, but also good for combat readiness. Reducing stress makes for a happier and more adjusted Soldier.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield offer a lot of different activities for Families and single Soldiers alike.

The outdoor scene has plenty of hunting, fishing and camping areas to challenge even the most avid outdoor sportsman. (See related story regarding the

Big Buck Gala on Page 1B.)

Our supporting communities, like Savannah and Hinesville, offer a variety of unique experiences and places to visit - many historical in nature. Some of the events can be found listed on Page 5B weekly in the Frontline newspaper or monthly in the Quality Time magazine.

I would encourage single Soldiers to experience the history of Savannah and the surrounding area.

But if you want to get out of town,



you don't have to go far. The Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Leisure Travel Section has travel opportunities like Jacksonville with its beaches, concerts, and zoo.

MWR also has trips to other places in Florida like Orlando - home of Universal Studios and Disney World.

Universal Studios features a lot of different amusement park rides and shows from popular movies such as Jaws and Ghostbusters.

Disney World has a number of differ-

ent attractions from Atlanta Braves spring training to a variety of water parks. Daytona Beach has a NASCAR race track and beaches in the area too. If a Soldier wanted to go even farther, Miami is about seven hours away.

Closer to home, Myrtle Beach is about three hours away and a popular destination in the summer time. The quiet but beautiful area is a prime destination in warmer temperatures.

Atlanta also is close by, only about a three-hour drive away.

Many of the attractions offer discounts to servicemembers and their Families. I encourage you to check with MWR Leisure travel, 767-2841.

Travel clerk doing what she loves to do

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

It makes the job easier when you enjoy the work you do. Leslie Washington, travel clerk for Fort Stewart's Leisure Travel office, not only enjoys the work she does, she loves it.

"The part of this job I like the most is that I get into people's lives and help them plan the perfect vacation," Washington said, then paused to answer the phone. Someone was calling to find out which Disney resorts were offering a special rate for military personnel. After patiently explaining what the caller needed to know, she returned to what she was saying, adding, "I don't like to stay home. I love to travel."

She gets to do just that as part of her job during special off-installation trips she has negotiated for Soldiers, their Family Members and members of the civilian community. Her office often beats the best of the online hotel and travel discount services. How about a three-day weekend for four to Gatlinburg, Tenn. at a riverside resort near the ski slopes - for only \$275? That cost

includes travel, accommodations and dinner for you and your Family at a major attraction on the night of your arrival. Oh, and you get there riding in a luxury motorcoach the whole way, saving yourself the cost of gas and driving fatigue.

During the two years she has worked for Leisure Travel, Washington has hosted trips to Atlanta, New York and St. Augustine, Fla. She said St. Augustine was her all-time favorite trip, particularly the off-area excursive to a Holy Land park near Orlando.

A native of Trinidad, Washington said her Family moved to the U.S. when she was only seven, explaining why she has no hint of an accent, which is probably helpful during her frequent phone and desk conversations with those asking a litany of questions about travel opportunities in the tri-state area and beyond.

She is a mother of two boys, Trenton, 9, and Joseph, 4. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Joseph Washington, returned from Iraq while she was hosting a trip to Atlanta in July 2008. She said he met her and the boys at the Country Inn & Suites where she, the boys and her travel group were staying, which made that trip even more special

for her.

"I think it's an honor to serve this country," Washington said, explaining that she realizes she is really serving the men and women who serve this country, but that makes her a part of their service. She paused a moment to think about her position as a role model for African-Americans then smiled, "It's good to have the confidence my ancestors had to do all that they did. I always try to do my best. Being able to lead my [Leisure Travel tour] group is an accomplishment."

Unfortunately for the Stewart-Hunter community, Washington is leaving Fort Stewart in May when her husband will be transferred to a new assignment at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. She said she will be returning to the type of work she did before she came to Leisure Travel, that of an administrative assistant.

Washington said she's looking forward to their Family's new assignment because of all the new travel opportunities it offers her. Leisure travel will no longer be part of her job description, but she'll continue to plan those perfect vacations - her own.

Lindsey Blair attends the Presidential Inauguration

Nancy Gould
Hunter Public Affairs

Lindsey Blair shivered as she stood in 9-degree weather watching the Presidential Inauguration at the National Mall in Washington DC. Around her stood 7,000 of her peers - other National Young Leaders alumni selected for the week-long Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference.

It was no small thing for the daughter of Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Blair, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, and his wife Rhonda, to be chosen to attend the historical event. Her grades, her leadership skills, and her attendance at two previous conferences for National Young Leaders qualified her to be selected for the prestigious invitation.

She received the invitation from organizers of the National Young Leaders Conference to recognize her leadership skills and to give her and other high school "scholars" a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history behind the electoral process.

Lindsey said the experience gave her that appreciation and more. Speakers at the conference, such as retired General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and human rights activist; and Lisa Ling, a special correspondent for the National Geographic Channel and the Oprah Winfrey Show, inspired and encouraged Lindsey and her peers with accounts of how they attained their goals, eventually

becoming among the top in their respective fields.

"They started out like us," she said. "They worked hard and they built their way up. I liked the passion and energy they showed when they talked to us. You should have seen their facial expression and their body language."

Those talks were the second best part of the trip, according to Lindsey; the best part was "actually seeing the inauguration for myself."

"We're obviously proud of her," said dad Patrick, adding, "How many 14-year-olds get a personal invitation to a presidential inauguration?"

"She must have had a good time," laughed mom, Rhonda. "She didn't text or call me the entire time she was there."

Students kept busy with activities and with getting acquainted. At night, they stayed at different locations in the D.C. area; Lindsey stayed at the University of Maryland. During the day they came together for group meetings, a tour of the National Air and Space Museum, a tour of the Newseum, and a river cruise.

On inauguration night, the 7,000 students and their chaperones attended a Black Tie Gala Inaugural

Ball. The musical group "Daughtry," that originated from American Idol, headlined the event.

"It was fun, kind of like a high school dance," she said, adding that it's among the top memories of her trip.

But it's not just memories that Lindsey brought home. She brought renewed motivation to continue working hard to achieve her goals - whatever they are.



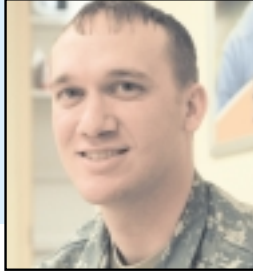
Lindsey Blair

Nearly four million people endured 9-degree weather to participate in the history making inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Marne Voices Speak Out

"George Washington Carver - Scientist, botanist, educator and inventor."

Capt. Matt Aubry
3rd ID, STB



"President Obama. Not just because of his race; but because he is non-partisan. He plans to help everyone."

Jennifer Pose
Civilian employee

Who do you believe is an important African-American role model?

"Martin Luther King - We've come a long way, and it would not have been possible without him."

Catherine Caddell
Civilian employee



"Nelson Mandella. After the way he was treated, he had the heart to forgive."

Spc. Jason Jueanville
Co. D, 1/3 Avn.

"My Mom. She raised three boys by herself in Washington, D.C. and taught us our black history."

Spc. Derron Lee
Co. G., 26th BSB



"My Mom and Dad, Milton and Anne Burch. They instilled important values in me."

Erica Cooke
Civilian employee

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opinion!
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Education Matters

Directorate of Human Resources

Spouses’ Clubs announce scholarships

The Enlisted Spouses' Club sponsors the annual Rita Ackerman Scholarship Award. Five hundred dollars is given to the spouse of an active, retired, or deceased enlisted Soldier residing in the Fort Stewart area. A selection committee will award the merit-based scholarship based on academic records, transcripts, letters of recommendation, volunteer activities and an essay written by the applicant. Applications are available at the Stewart/Hunter education centers and must be postmarked no later than April 1.

The Officer's Spouses' Club awards merit-based scholarships for deserving eligible Family Members of all active, retired or deceased military of the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield communities.

There are four categories of applicants, including high school seniors, continuing undergraduate, undergraduate spouse and graduate spouse continuing education. Applications are at local high schools, Army Community Services, the Stewart/Hunter education centers, and the OSC Web site: *thesteelmagnolia.org*. The application deadline is March 18. This is a merit-based scholarship; financial need is not a consideration.

One week, daytime courses available

Central Texas College is now offering one semester hour daytime college classes that you can complete in just five days! Classes meet for three hours and are available during the mornings or afternoons.

Materials are included; you do not have to purchase textbooks. This is a great opportunity to earn elective credits for general studies, computer and management degrees. Computer studies and military related man-

agement courses will run throughout January at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, and Hunter Army Airfield education center. Active duty Soldiers using tuition assistance must meet with an education counselor for a course override.

For a list of upcoming courses, go to your education center or call 767-2070 at Stewart or 459-5181 at Hunter.

Tuition allowance made available

All active-duty servicemembers have \$4,500 per fiscal year available for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits offered by the Veterans Administration.

Details are covered at 1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For information, call 767-8331 at Stewart or 315-6130 at Hunter.

Apply for commissary scholarship

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Families have another education opportunity available through the Commissary Scholarship Program for Military Children, which is now open. Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online through *www.commissaries.com* or *www.militaryscholar.org*.

Family Members, unmarried children (under the age 23) of active duty personnel, Reserve/Guard and retired military members, survivors of servicemembers who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship.

All applicants must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full

time in the Fall of 2009, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applications are due by Feb. 18.

For more information about the scholarships, visit *www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/2008/DeCA_121_08.cfm*.

College classes for warriors offered

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield education centers are supporting Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses.

The classes are being conducted by Central Texas College. To enroll, warriors must sign up through the GoArmyEd portal online. Soldiers attached to Fort Stewart's Warrior Transition Unit will be temporarily served at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100. For more information, call 767-8331.

Soldiers stationed at Hunter can contact Fay Ward at the Education Center, building 1290 or call 315-6130. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the counselors in building 100 at Stewart, 767-8331.

Apply for HOPE Grant

The Georgia HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools.

The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family Member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. Visit online at *www.gsfc.org*.

DHR Spotlights: Edgar C. Hall

Courtesy of DHR

Edgar C. Hall is an education services specialist at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education center located in building 100 on Fort Stewart. His career as an educator began in 1967 when he became a public school teacher in Dublin, Ga.

He left Dublin after many years and started working on a graduate degree at Atlanta University where he received his masters in 1972. Following graduation, he accepted a position in Hamilton, Ga. as an assistant principal and site coordinator where he worked until 1978. He then began working for the Georgia state government prison system in Milledgeville, Ga as the director of files. Three years later, he accepted a position with the federal government as a career intern with the Army education center at Stewart. Upon completion of the intern program, hall was transferred to the Army education center at Fort Riley, Kansas. While there, he blossomed into an outstanding guidance counselor.

In 1984, hall left Riley to begin his overseas duties as a guidance counselor at the Wildflecken Army education center in

Germany. His tour, however, was short-lived because of the sudden death of his mother in 1985. He returned to Stewart to continue serving Soldiers as a guidance counselor.

With a love for traveling, Hall began his second tour of Germany in 1988. During that year, he was assigned to Mainz, where he was promoted to education services specialist. With this promotion, he transferred in 1991 to the newly established Army Career Alumni Program in Baumholder, Germany. This program allowed Hall to travel throughout Germany briefing Soldiers of the

importance and purpose of education.

In 1993, Hall returned to the education center at Fort Stewart resuming his duties as a guidance counselor for the Fort Stewart army population.

Again, with his passion for adventure, Hall accepted an education services specialist position in the middle east in 2002. This position allowed him to travel and work in such places as, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar taking care of the educational needs of Soldiers and Airmen in those areas.

After his tour in the Middle East ended in 2004, Hall returned to the Stewart.



Edgar C. Hall

Encouragement led to success

Dorothy Taylor
Directorate of Human Resources

Most guidance counselors have influenced their clients and may have made a difference in their lives, but most of the Army's education counselors are unaware if they have had some profound effect on a Soldier's career. Fortunately, Edgar C. Hall, Education Services Specialist at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center was able to see first hand what his encouragement and guidance 23 years ago meant to a former Soldier.

Gustavo A. Caruso saw Hall was still at the education center and was moved to write about him to Pam King, the Education Services Officer.

"I'm a retired master Sergeant. I'd like to tell you a story about one of the counselors that works in this facility, Mr. Edgar Hall. I arrived to Fort Stewart in 1985. I barely spoke English. My squad leader sent me to the learning center in the old 800 block. Mr. Hall took a look at me and told me 'we have a lot work ahead of us.' He took extra time and explained things to me."

Hall enrolled Caruso in an English class. "After a month of English, reading and writing, my squad leader saw the improvements and let me stay for an extra month for BSEP (Basic Skills

Education Program), which was a course to improve your (General Technical) score. I (earned) the best score of 30 students. That's right -- 30 Soldiers, all cramp up in the back of a supply room."

Caruso had a successful career, achieving the rank of first sergeant. While serving, he used tuition assistance to complete an associate degree with the University of Maryland in 1995, a bachelors degree with Excelsior College in 2002 and a masters in education with Touro University in 2005.

After retirement in 2005, he worked for the Tank Automotive and Armament Command as a logistics assistance representative and advanced from a GS-09 to GS-12. Now Caruso trains and assists Soldiers on highly complex logistics issues.

"I believe in my heart that Mr. Hall was a great influence in my success. I never forgot him. I always remember him for his determination to help Soldiers. He was the foundation for me to actually start even imagining about going to college and better myself. I wonder how many lives he has influenced. Mr. Hall, I salute you, and I thank you for everything you do for the Soldiers at Fort Stewart and what you have done for me. Thank you so much for a job well done."

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Town Hall meeting slated

The military community has an opportunity to address concerns or make suggestions to the panel about Stewart and Hunter quality of life issues at 5:30 p.m., today. You are invited to attend the meeting (Club Stewart, building 405 and Hunter Club, building 6015), watch live on Marne TV, or call in questions at 767-ROCK or 315-ROCK. Door prizes will be awarded. For more information, call 767-1257 (Stewart) or 315-6816 (Hunter). The Town Hall Meeting is coordinated by Army Community Service.

Marne Tax Centers available

Open now through Apr. 15 for free tax preparation for active duty Soldiers, retirees and eligible Family Members. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk in and drop off services are available. Call 315-3675 for information and appointments at Hunter Army Airfield, or 767-1040 for Fort Stewart.

Sign up for OSC scholarship

Applications available for The Fort Stewart Military Family Member Scholarship Fund. Any military Family Member continuing their education is eligible. For more information, or to make your application, visit www.thesteelmagnolia.org. The deadline for applying is March 18.

Go Green-to-Gold

Learn about the 3rd Infantry Division Commanding General's Direct Select to Officer Candidate School option. Applications will be accepted through May 8 through unit S-1s. Learn more about by visiting usmilitary.about.com/od/armytrng.

Divorce Care Group kicks off

The 3rd Infantry Division Family Life Chaplain's office kicks off the Divorce Care Group with a meeting 4 p.m., Feb. 19 at the Main Post Chapel. Food will be provided. Divorce Care is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Do not go through separation or divorce alone. Divorce Care groups meet weekly 5:30 – 7 p.m. to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. For more information or to reserve your place at this kick-off meeting, call Family Life Chaplain (Maj.) Terry Romine at 767-3610 or 435-9917.

SAMC supports homeless

The Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Sgt. Audie Murphy Club is holding a winter donation event now until Feb. 12 to help the homeless. Club representatives Staff Sgt. Ryan Hellman, 610-2744; Sgt. Maj. Sherman Roberts, 435-9696; and Master Sgt. Terrance Clay, 767-0536 invite community members to donate blankets, sleeping bags, jackets and sweaters, long undergarments, hats, gloves, scarves and other winter garments toward the cause. Individuals who want to contribute can call one of the points of contact.

Experience Poetry Night

Voice your poetic talent at Poetry Night, 7 - 10 p.m., Feb. 19 at Rocky's. Themes include 'Quest of Citizenship in America' and 'Year of the NCO.' The winner of the competition will be honored at the upcoming Black History Month Observance slated for 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Feb. 24 at Club Stewart's Main Ball Room. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Dawn Charleswell, 3rd Sustainment Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor, at 767-8140.

Babysitting classes offered

Teens (13 and older) who would like to be trained and certified as babysitters will have opportunities at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The Hunter babysitting course is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 28-29 at the School Age Youth Services, building 1289. For registration information and course details, call 315-5425.

On Fort Stewart, the training is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 8-9 and June 22-23 at the Youth Center, building 7338. For registration information and course details, call 767-2312. There is no charge for the training. Upon completion of passing all required training, teens will receive a Red Cross first aid/infant and child CPR certification, which is required to become a certified babysitter.

Stewart

Coed Volleyball sign-up slated

Sign-up begins Feb. 1 and continues through March 18 for Intramural Coed Volleyball play. League competition is scheduled March 30 through April 30. Games will be played Monday-Thursday at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. at Newman Fitness Center, building 439. League is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. Family Members must be 17 or older. For more information, call 767-8238.

MCEC - Tell Me a Story Sunday

Command Sergeant Major Jesse Andrews, 3rd Infantry Divisions Command Sergeant Major, will be Military Child Education Coalition guest reader 2-3 p.m., Feb. 22 at Club Stewart. The book is *More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby, a tribute to dreaming and the life of Booker T. Washington will be the story.

Every Family that participates will take home a hard-copy of the book. You must have a reservation to attend this event. Call now to reserve your spot. Call Ruth DeUnger, 385-9564 or (910) 391-522; or send an e-mail to AndyandRuth28@aol.com for more information.

Join Old Guard

The Old Guard is currently accepting applications for the following military occupational specialties: 11B10/20/30/40, 25M30, 25U20/40, 25V20, 31B10/20/30/40, 35F30, 42A20/30,44B10, 44C10/30, 45B10, 46R20/30, 52D10/20, 63X40, 68W20/30/40, 74D20, 88M10, 88N20/30, 89B20/40, 92G10/20, 92S10/20, and 92Y10/30. There is a 36-month service-remaining requirement for duty at the Old Guard. Apply at www.army.mil/oldguard. To learn more, call Master Sgt. James Warner at (703)696-3050.

Storytime at Stewart slated

The Military Child Education Coalition presents Storytime – when children hear stories and make crafts – from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Feb. 10, 17 and 24. Storytime is held at the George P. Hays Library, building 411. For more information, call 767-2828.

Enjoy Mardi Gras brunch

A Mardi Gras Sunday Brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Hunter Club, building 6015. Join us for a taste of New Orleans in Georgia. The menu features breakfast items, gumbo w/white rice, Creole chicken, dirty rice, Muffalata and more. The cost is \$11.95 per person, children (ages 5-10) eat half price and under 4 and free. For more information, call 459-7923.

Enjoy Monte Carlo Night

The Fort Stewart Officers' Spouses' Club will sponsor Monte Carlo Casino Night 7-11 p.m., March 6 at Club Stewart, building 405. The OSC welcomes all of the military community as well as the general public to this event.

Attendees are encouraged to strut their stuff down our red carpet in their best 'dressy casual' outfits for a night of charity and fun. Tickets will be \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of the event.

Admission will include heavy hors d'oeuvres and complementary tokens for the charity game tables that feature "Monte Carlo" casino style games.



Count candy hearts

Guess how many candy hearts are in the jar, Feb. 2-10. The event on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will have jars located at the Liberty Woods, Southern Oaks Community Center, New Savannah and New Callaway Community centers.

The person with the closest guess will win a dozen roses, balloons and chocolate for their special someone! The winner will be notified Feb. 11.

Enjoy Disney trivia

Test your knowledge of some classic Disney movies by answering questions about movie clips, characters and much more 4:30 p.m., Friday at the Hunter leasing office.

Pre-K Applications available

Applications for Pre-Kindergarten classes in the Savannah Chatham County Public School System are available from Feb. 2 - March 16 at various elementary schools in Savannah. Funding from the GA Lottery provides a limited number of Pre-Kindergarten classes to be held at Savannah-Chatham schools. Children are selected through a lottery process held at the Pre-K sites at 10 a.m. March 18. To find out where to obtain applications and for lottery drawing locations, call 395-5600 or contact David Smith at Hunter Army Airfield at david.sherwood.smith@us.army.mil.

Hunter

MCEC institute offered

The registration deadline is Feb. 24 for the Military Child Education Coalition Special Education Leaders Institute, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 5-6 at Hunter Club, building 6015.

The participation of educators, child care providers and social workers is encouraged so they might gain a better understanding of challenges associated with transitioning military connected students who have special needs. There is no charge, and meals are provided. Register at www.militarychild.org, 315-6586.

Fallen Heroes of Georgia

A 10-kilometer, 5K and 1K Fun Run, scheduled March 28 at the Reunion Golf Community Subdivision, Hoschton, Ga., is sponsored by Operation One Voice and The Reunion Golf Community to generate funds for military Families whose loved ones have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation's freedom.

The 10K race is a qualifier for the 2010 Peachtree Road Race. If interested in participating, get race times and costs at the registration site, www.active.com.

MOAA Scholarship Program

The Military Officer Association of America will award 25 grants of \$1,000 each for the 2009-2010 school year. Applicants must be the dependent child of an active duty member or a Drilling Reserve/National Guard members, officer or enlisted, of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Applications are available on-line at www.moaa.org/education. The deadline is noon, Mar. 2.

Learn about Savannah schools

Individual Specialty Program Schools (formerly Magnet Schools) host open houses now through Feb. 3; registration deadline is Feb. 20. To find open house schedules at the school of your choice, go to www.sccpss.com or call Dave Smith at 767-6533.

Spouses' Club hold luncheon

A Valentine luncheon is scheduled 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 10 at the Hunter Club. The cost is \$11. There is \$1 off lunch for special guest, 1st Battalion 10th Aviation, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation, and 3rd Squadron, 17 Cavalry. This month the club will make a donation in support of the Savannah Rape Crisis Center. Make your reservation for lunch and childcare at 756-3179; indicate childcare interest at time of registration.

Huddles held

To make it possible for every neighborhood to have a huddle once a month, we are combining all neighborhood huddles into one. Balfour Beatty Representatives will be there to address any issues or concerns residents may have with their neighborhoods 10:30 a.m., Feb. 12 at the Southern Oaks Community Center. Please use this opportunity to help make your community a great place to live.

On Hunter, the huddle will be 10:30 a.m., Feb. 10 at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

Make a heart card

Come make special Valentine's Day cards for loved ones 3:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at the Southern Oaks Community Center. We'll be taking a picture of you and printing them out for you to insert in your card. On Hunter, the event will be 4:30 p.m., Feb. 10 at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center. Show someone you care with a card!

4BCT

From Page 1A

By shedding the brigade's heavily armored Abrams tanks and Bradleys, the brigade will be given the capability to be more agile if under restraining and restrictive terrain and weather.

"It's a more versatile unit that can go places that tanks and Bradleys might not necessarily be able to go to," James said. "It is an organization that will serve the Army well and is needed especially as we look to full spectrum operations; when we start thinking of counter-insurgency and needing more Soldiers and more infantrymen on the ground."

Though transitioning, most of the battalions within the brigade will have the same training with slightly different equipment.

"The biggest difference within the Brigade is (4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment), becoming (3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment), resulting in the loss of four companies of tanks and replacing them essentially with four companies of infantrymen," said Maj. Clint Cunningham, future operations officer for 4th BCT.

Prior to transitioning to an Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the Vanguard

Brigade will start a game plan on how to successfully transition from heavy to light and review events from the recent deployment to assess it.

While deployed, the brigade focus was creating a safe environment for the local population in the Babil Province.

"The main focus was to secure the population, to defeat extremists and to increase the professionalization of the Iraqi Security Forces to allow a secure environment for government and economics to grow," James said. "And what's exciting about the rotation is that we saw a marked improvement from day one when we arrived until when we departed."

While in Iraq, Soldiers throughout the Vanguard Brigade worked more than 14 months to help provide a secure and stable environment.

"We did several collective operations in partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces, and we were able to essentially defeat extremists in Babil Province," James said. "We were able to defeat the enemy and then occupy patrol bases and joint security stations with the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to create a secure environment for the population."

NCO

From Page 1A

Burke was promoted in November then in January attended the Warrior Leader Course, earning the Leadership Award.

You could describe Burke as a soft spoken man. Ask him what his hobbies are, and he'll mechanically reply "Working out and football."

Inquire what he wants to accomplish in the next couple years, and he rattles off skill tabs as if he's just naming anything he can think of: "Sapper, sniper, Ranger, airborne, air assault, Audie Murphy..." But ask him about being a noncommissioned officer or leading Soldiers, and you force Burke to reflect.

"It's about doing the little things right and taking them seriously," Burke said. "Any mistake could cost you or your Soldiers down range."

That, in short, is the essence of Cpl. Corey Burke, the focus and drive over which he obsesses -- leading Soldiers with a never-ending fixation on details.

"A proper and thorough (preventative maintenance, checks and services), that's a huge deal to me," he said.

It's not as if he's a taskmaster though. Burke doesn't respond with a zeal for putting down Soldiers, but rather mentoring, guiding and developing young Soldiers to become exceptional NCOs.

"When I leave, I want my Soldiers to do their job better than I do," he said. "The Soldiers I deployed with still call me to see what I'm up to. That means a lot to me. I tried to give them a reason to strap up their boots every day."

FSBI

From Page 1A

"We've used our stakeholders to build a program that accommodates our needs here at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield," Delzeith said.

Special guests for the ROC drill included Col. Todd Buchs, U.S. Army Garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin, Stewart-Hunter garrison command sergeant major. Among the visitors attending the ROC drill was Sgt. Major Javier Gomez, the Department of Public Works sergeant major at Fort Rucker, Ala. Gomez said he wanted to see how Stewart-Hunter had put together its FSBI program and maybe take away some information he could use when Fort Rucker implements their FSBI program in October.

Issues discussed beyond in/out-processing included key process, room and furnishing inspection/inventory, maintenance, damage collection process, reports and forms, areas of responsibility and after hours operations. Delzeith reminded everyone that the Soldier would be held responsible for damages to his or her room or furnishings and that deliberate damage was a discipline issue, which was the unit's responsibility. He added though that the money recouped for damages to Stewart-Hunter barracks would stay here to be used to improve our own barracks.

During the out-briefing, Delzeith and other key members of the FSBI team responded to specific questions from visitors as well as the garrison commander. One of the questions asked had to do with in-processing procedures for geographical bachelors and out-processing mass deployments. Delzeith explained that separate ROC drills will be conducted to go over these uniquely different situations. He added the Staff Judge Advocates' office approved the FSBI SOP for implementation, which begins March 2 with the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

"Is it going to work?" Buchs asked, after commending the "excellent teamwork" by stakeholders and FSBI team members.

A sounding "yes" from both stakeholders and FSBI team members immediately responded to Buchs question. Sgt. Major Henry Knox, RCI Housing sergeant major, reinforced that response, saying he believed the FSBI team had put together a "very effective" program. He added that his correspondence with units' noncommissioned officers was that the brigades wanted to keep their NCOs involved.

"The key to this whole thing is constant communication," Buchs said, adding to Knox' comments. "Units are still involved with discipline and setting the standards in the rooms."

"Great job!" Ervin said, summing up the success of the ROC drill and the many months of hard work by FSBI stakeholders and team members. "This is a partnership. I think we've got a great team, but NCO involvement is key here."

Buchs said ousing is a key retention issue for both married and single Soldiers and that FSBI was a tremendous step toward improving the quality of life for single Soldiers.

Cpl. Corey B. Burke

Age: 22

Current Position: Brigade Commander's Assistant Gunner/Dismount Team Leader

Current Unit: 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

Component: Active Army

Current Location: Fort Stewart

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Years of Service: 3



Tele Cronin
Corporal Corey Burke, HHC, 2BCT

DES: OnStar training improves 911 response

Special to the Frontline

Are you worried that your car will break down on a lonely road in the middle of nowhere? What if you are lost, driving down an unfamiliar back road and can't seem to find your way? What will happen if you have a medical emergency or accident while on the road and need immediate assistance? These are but a few of the many mishaps that may occur while on the road. Even the most prepared and conscientious driver on the road may encounter some misfortune during their journeys.

Fort Stewart's Department of Emergency Services (DES) 911 staff recently held OnStar training for its emergency dispatchers. OnStar training includes several modules. If the driver of a car with OnStar is in an accident, there are certain services offered that will be of importance. The feature, Automatic Crash Response (ACR), allows crash information to be sent directly to the OnStar call center as soon as a collision occurs. In the event of a moderate to severe crash, a collection of sensors built into an OnStar equipped vehicle automatically sends a signal and crash data through a cellular connection to special-

ly trained emergency advisors at OnStar. This connection allows the advisor to speak directly with the vehicle's occupants, assess their condition, and reassure them that help is on the way. Advisors then relay the crash information, condition of the driver and passengers, and the vehicle's exact GPS location to the geographically appropriate public safety communications center. In the event that the vehicle's occupants are unable to respond to the OnStar advisor, the advisor will still request emergency help be sent to the scene. ACR helps emergency responders and dispatchers understand what occurred during the crash. Educated decisions can then be made on how to respond, thereby increasing the likelihood of the victim's survival. Crash data also helps first responders to determine if the victim should be transported directly to a trauma center. The medical center is also better able to prepare for the victim's arrival by mobilizing the appropriate specialists and preparing an operating room if necessary. This feature may also be used if a situation is witnessed in which emergency services are needed for someone else.

Stolen Vehicle Location (SVL) allows OnStar to

work with the police to find a vehicle in the event that it is stolen. The Stolen Vehicle Slowdown element takes away the ability to use a car's gas pedal while allowing braking and steering controls to work. OnStar will only enable the service if a situation meets a "required criteria," such as a police request while pursuing a stolen vehicle or if a child has accidentally been kidnapped by a person stealing what they assumed was an empty idling car. A car owner must first report the vehicle stolen to the police, then call OnStar and request the Stolen Vehicle Slowdown service be activated. OnStar will then use GPS-tracking to first locate the vehicle and give police a chance to get in its vicinity. Once police have reported the vehicle in sight and requested a slowdown, OnStar will activate a signal that causes the car's powertrain system to reduce engine power and ignore acceleration from the gas pedal.

OnStar emergency training is one of the many certifications obtained by the Fort Stewart 911 dispatchers. DES and its 911 dispatchers are dedicated to continuous training in the area of emergency response, resulting in better service to the community.

Justice Served

District Court Actions	Suspended Criminal	License, Trespassing; Special Assessment
Male; 21; Disorderly conduct, underage drinking; \$250 fine, 3 months probation, 40 hours community service, \$25 Special Assessment	\$500 fine, 12 months probation, \$35	
Male; 53; Theft of Government Property; \$250 fine, \$25 Special Assessment		Male; 29; No insurance, Driving with Suspended License, Driving with Suspended Registration; \$1000 fine, 12 months probation, \$75 Special Assessment
Female; 20; Theft of Government Property; \$749 restitution, 12 months probation, 2 days confinement, 100 hours community service, \$25 Special Assessment		Male; 29; Possession of a Controlled Substance; \$1000 fine, 12 months probation, \$25 Special Assessment
Male; 26; DUI; \$300 fine, 12 months probation, 40 hours community service, \$25 Special Assessment		Male; 52; Theft of Government Property, Open container, Fleeing & Eluding, Criminal Trespassing; 30 days confinement, \$65 Special Assessment
Male; 32; Driving with		



Nancy Gould

Firefighters honored

Lieutenant Colonel Dan Whitney, Hunter Garrison Commander, huddles with Hunter AAF firefighters, Jan. 29 to thank them for a job well done and to hand out commander coins for their quick action on Jan. 10 when a fire broke out in the Hunter Bingo Hall's storage room, destroying the room and damaging the Bingo Hall. Five firefighting vehicles and 15 firefighters were on the scene within minutes of the firehouse alarm to fight the blaze. "You are true professionals, and I can't thank you enough for your service," said Whitney.

Veterans help Warriors in Transition at Stewart

Elise VanPool

Public Affairs Specialist

The Veterans Airlift Command is making a lot of Wounded Warriors and their Families happy these days by providing cost-free roundtrip flights for Warriors and their Families from their station of recovery to visit Family and friends at home.

VAC is a nonprofit organization of private pilots who fly Wounded Warriors and their Families, at no expense, to assist in the healing process of the wounded warriors. The program has had a positive effect here at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield as VAC has assisted several local Warriors with flights.

One such Warrior was Pfc. Alyssa Carducci, 90th Human Resource Company, 3rd Infantry Division. Carducci became ill in Iraq and was transported back to the states. VAC flew Carducci home to Florida to visit with her Family while recovering at Fort Stewart.

"It was very generous," she said. "They (VAC) took time out of their lives to take me. It was nice to get away from the solitude of the medical facility I was in."

Maj. David Underwood, who is now with the Fort Sam Houston Warrior in Transition Battalion, served with the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div. when he was wounded in Iraq.

When he was recovering at Walter Reed, he took several flights with VAC. In addition, the VAC flew his wife from Savannah to the District of Columbia nearly every week so she could be there to assist with his recovery.

"These people are amazing! It would have placed quit a burden on my Family for my wife to fly commercially," Underwood said. "It was one less thing we had to worry about. This is a pretty amazing group of people... to help Families be together in their time of need."

The MidCoast Regional Airport, co-located at Wright Army Airfield, is one of the locations VAC uses to assist Soldiers. The MRA airport authority shows its support for the program by offering fuel discounts to volunteer pilots who fly missions to Wright or who can prove they have flown missions for VAC in the past.

Richard Thetford, airfield manager at Wright said VAC is a worthwhile program. It allows pilots to "take their skills and airplane and put them to good use." Thetford said that the staff at Wright would do whatever they can to assist VAC in its mission to support the Wounded Warriors.

The program was established in July of 2006 by Walter Fricke, a combat wounded Vietnam veteran.

"I spent six months in a hospital 700 miles from

my hometown recovering from combat injuries sustained while flying a helicopter in Vietnam. My healing began in earnest when my Family was able to gather the resources to make a trip to visit me." Fricke said.

Abram Finkelstein, is one of VAC's volunteer pilots. He has flown six flights for VAC out the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

Finkelstein heard about the program from a friend in the Air Force who thought Finkelstein might be interested in helping. After learning more about the program, he was excited to volunteer. He was an Army "Brat" himself.

"[I'm] happy to have the opportunity to meet some fantastic people [including] parents and spouses. It gives me a feeling of reward to be giving back to the guys and girls who give so much," Finkelstein said.

VAC has flown more than 1,000 missions, helping wounded warriors and their Families be together. Their passengers consist of mostly Wounded Warriors, according to VAC representative Jen Salvati.

To learn more about VAC, visit www.veteransairlift.org/page/1/home.jsp or call them at 952-582-2911.

For more information regarding MidCoast Airport's support of VAC please visit their website www.midcoast-regionalairport.com/news.php?view=7.

New fuel source puts Stewart in compliance

Connie Benson

Frontline Contributor

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield help lead the way for environmental conservation with efforts in pioneering alternative fuel sources while meeting recent presidential mandated energy conservation efforts.

According to Jim Niksch, Directorate of Logistics, Chief of Supply and Services, the recent addition of Ethanol 85 (E-85) at the vehicle fueling point located at building 1860, not only puts Stewart in compliance, but also enhances the military's reputation as a good community partner.

Niksch explained that the mandate, handed down in the year 2000, stated that all government agencies should reduce energy consumption by 20 percent.

"Stewart is using the same amount of energy, but by using E85, we are reducing our reliance on non-renewable fossil fuels," he said.

Niksch said the new source, which is 85 percent renewable, was installed at Stewart, Nov. 6 and is still in its infancy stage.

"It's a risk for an industry to fuel with E-85 right now, but we were looking into the future," Niksch said.

He noted the cost of this new source is a few cents higher a gallon, \$1.79 as compared to regular fuel at \$1.75 a gallon, based on current market prices. He

explained that the upside is that if or when gas prices go up in the future, E-85 becomes less expensive than gasoline and Stewart will be prepared to capitalize on the financial benefits of E-85. He further stated that the more you use, the less fossil fuel is used, which contributes to a cleaner environment.

Niksch said the installation of Stewart's new fuel source comes on the heels of years of lobbying with the Army Petroleum Center at Fort Belvoir, who is responsible for stocking fuel at all installations. Niksch explained that bringing any new product to Stewart involves the combined efforts of several installation agencies, but he attributes much of the credit for successfully obtaining E-85 fuel at Fort Stewart to the persistence of Clyde Lynn, Contracting Officer Representative, who Niksch said acted as the liaison between Stewart and APC.

Lynn said the four-year process, which finally led to the addition of this fuel at Stewart involved a lot of telephone calls, emails, and paperwork, which included cost analysis and justifications, just to name a few. He said APC only provides fuel for government vehicles, which he said posed the biggest stumbling block. Stewart had only 100 vehicles that were E-85 compatible at the beginning of this process, which made justification of adding E-85 as a fuel source difficult.

Currently, Niksch said there are more than 200 E-85



Connie Benson

Sgt. Michael Crowley, of 293rd Military Police Company refuels with E85 at Fort Stewart's building 1860.

compatible vehicles on the installation using an average of 2,000 gallons of fuel a month. He projects that by the year 2014 all Government Service Administration vehicles at Stewart will be compatible.

Niksch praised Stewart's efforts in helping to lead the way to a cleaner environment for future generations.

Veterans' Corner *-Still serving*



More than 700 years of service honored in ceremony

Sgt. Joseph McAtee
3rd ID Public Affairs

Thirty Soldiers and one Army Civilian retired after nearly 700 collective years of service to the Army during two ceremonies at Club Stewart Jan. 29.

The ceremonies were a fitting end to the careers of the 28 noncommissioned officers, a warrant officer, a commissioned officer and an Army Civilian who devoted much of their adult lives to the 3rd Infantry Division.

Colonel Shawn M. Morrissey, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, said, "I am honored to recognize these great Soldiers and Civilians and their

Families for their tremendous accomplishment in retiring from the United States Army and federal service."

Morrissey, who was joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tolbert, command sergeant major of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, added that in honoring the retirement of Gail Aldridge, garrison public affairs community relations specialist, the ceremony also symbolized "the unity between Soldiers and Civilians."

While many of the retirees said they planned on entering the private sector, some, like Chief Warrant Officer Bruce A. Herr, senior warrant officer for the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, will continue to serve.

"It's not going to be much different for me. I'll still be at work, but I'll be wearing something else," Herr said.

While Herr's continued service to the Division doesn't change much, others said that although they're leaving the Army, they'll never be able to "leave the Army."

"It feels great, but also bittersweet," said 1st Sgt. Cynthia A. Whitfield, 226th Quartermaster Company first sergeant. "I'm leaving something I've known all my life."

Her twin sister, Master Sgt. Sylvia A. Whitfield, 3rd Sustainment Brigade non-commissioned officer in charge of operations, agreed, "It's instilled in me, the Soldier mentality. I'll never be able to let that go."

The 31 individuals who retired will always have their service remain a part of their character, said Morrissey, but the scope of

that service should be recognized as proof of their commitment to their country.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment in today's Army," he said. "The day each of them began this great journey, few may have known they would have stayed this long."

The military retirees and their respective retiring unit and years of service, include the following:

Maj. Leon Raney, 2nd HBCT, 26 years-of-service
Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Herr, 2nd HBCT, 31
Sergeant Maj. Bernard Harper, 3rd ID Special Troops Battalion, 30

1st Sgt. Tonia Holbert, Combat Aviation Brigade, 26

1st Sgt. Cynthia Whitfield, 3rd Sustainment Bde. 21

1st Sgt. Renthia Lord, U.S. Army Sergeants Majors Academy, 20

Master Sgt. Nixon Camper, Jr., 1st HBCT, 27

Master Sgt. Eduardo Falu-Velez, 2nd HBCT, 25

Master Sgt. Luis Vazquez-Garcia, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 23

Master Sgt. Delwin Gatson, 2nd HBCT, 22

Master Sgt. Howard Cary, 3rd ID STB, 21

Master Sgt. Michael Cox, 3rd ID STB, 21

Master Sgt. Sylvia Whitfield, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 21

Master Sgt. Kevin Crawford, 3rd ID STB, 20

Master Sgt. Gregory Jones, 2nd HBCT, 20

Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Ferrier, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 21

Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Garrett, 2nd HBCT, 21

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Methot, 2nd HBCT, 21

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Smith, 2nd HBCT, 21

Sgt. 1st Class Lee Wright, 1st HBCT, 21

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hubert, 1st HBCT, 20

Sgt. 1st Class Errol Jackson, 2nd HBCT, 20

Sgt. 1st Class Lucinda Jackson, 8th Army, 20

Sgt. 1st Class James Letman, 2nd HBCT, 20

Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Schreihofer, Garrison, 20

Staff Sgt. James Hill, 2nd HBCT, 22

Staff Sgt. John Mann, 2nd HBCT, 22

Staff Sgt. Thomas Jacobs, 2nd HBCT, 21

Staff Sgt. Joseph Cisco, Jr., 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 20

Staff Sgt. Melissa Jackson, 2nd HBCT, 20



Sgt. Joseph McAtee

In the second of two retirement ceremonies, 15 Soldiers and one Army Civilian are joined by their spouses as they officially retire from the Army at Club Stewart Jan. 29. Colonel Shawn M. Morrissey, 3rd Sustainment Bde. commander, called their retirements a "tremendous accomplishment," adding, "through their efforts, the U.S. Army has successfully supported one of the largest transformations in its history."

Raiders go 'live' with realistic training

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1HBCT Public Affairs

The silent behemoths whine into life with the hum of well-greased gears as the four Paladins point up into the cloudy sky. Inside each of the great beasts, four Soldiers, with every muscle tense, wait for the earth-shattering crack, the delayed boom



Pfc. Jared S. Eastman

Paladins from the 1/41st fire off artillery rounds into the impact training area on Fort Stewart. The live-fire exercise is the first since 1st HBCT Soldiers returned from Iraq last April.

and the convulsions that will pass through their bodies.

"It's an adrenaline rush," said Sgt. Corey Monroe, Paladin Gunner, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team. "It's one of those experiences that you will never forget and you could never do as a civilian."

The Paladins completed two one-round missions followed by one six-round mission throughout which the four Paladins pummeled the impact area as they reloaded as fast as possible.

"Today went very smooth," said Monroe, looking at the Paladin behind him and grinning. "We're trying to get certified so we can put out real big bullets when we go back across the water."

As the 1/41st trained on Paladins, 3rd

Battalion, 69th Armor qualified on vehicles of a different nature at Red Cloud Range Hotel: Bradleys, and a plethora of them.

"Quite a bit of effort goes into moving all the Soldiers out into the field," said 1st Lt. Timothy Neagle, Fire Support officer for Alpha Co., 3/69th Armor, as he yells above the crack of the Bradleys' guns. "All the maintenance that goes into the Bradleys, wheeled vehicles that come out, maintenance crews come out, medics and cooks."

Qualification with the Bradley can be difficult, involving a "sneaking" movement in which the Bradley drives up a small hill to make the target visible and then fires before heading back down.

"I'm definitely learning a lot," said Neagle. "There's many experienced Soldiers and officers that have been deployed, so I try to keep my ears open and learn what I can from them and all the training we're doing out here. Every time we train, we want to know more than when we came out. That's definitely the case this time."

Many of the crew members were new not only to the unit but the Army as well.

"Today definitely went better than last night," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Picon, a section leader for Alpha Co. 3/69th Armor. "I have a new crew, so being in charge and having a crew that has never been on a Bradley is kind of difficult. So last night was a little rough, but today is one hundred times better than last night."

The struggles of the night before did not dampen Picon's attachment to Bradleys however. "I love my Bradley. I love shooting the Bradley. There's no other feeling in the world like it; it's a lot of power. So whenever you can take it out and use it to its full potential, it's a great feeling."

3/1 Cav range training sharpens Soldier skills

Pvt. Erik S. Anderson
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, loaded into Humvees and went to the ranges of Fort Benning, Ga for a week of wheeled-gun-nery qualification that started Jan. 22.

Crews took their vehicles through the driving course as the gunner engaged and eliminated targets.

"Today's training is qualification for wheeled gunnery," said Staff Sgt. Daniel

Malubag, a truck commander in Company B, 3/1st Cav. Regt. "The focus is on the crew's proficiency and the gunner's ability to identify targets and put steel onto targets to terminate them."

"My main focus is to take charge of the truck and make sure my crew is doing the right thing out there," he said.

The training offered a chance for crews to practice some old skills.

"I am getting myself more familiar with the Mk-19 (heavy machine gun)," said Sgt. Basilio Medina, Company B, 3/1st Cav. Regt.

Medina has been a gunner for three years before joining Malubag, and was confident about the crew's performance.

"We just want to come out here, do good as a crew and qualify," said Medina. "I feel good about today's runs."

Malubag shared the positive outlook on the company's performance.

"Today's training is going pretty good. The crews are motivated and ready to qualify," said Malubag.

Although the day's training went well, he said there are obstacles ahead of

them.

"The night-fire is usually the most challenging, because you are shooting through night optics," said Malubag. "It's difficult to disseminate depth, and it's harder to see the targets."

Despite the challenges ahead, Medina continues to look forward.

"I'm learning techniques from my TC, (how he is) working with the driver, helping me as the gunner," he said. "Hopefully, someday I will become a TC and have my own crew. Hopefully, I can teach the skills I have learned and keep it going to make the Army better."

2BCT says farewell to CSM Berhane

Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Home, for many people, is where one grew up or perhaps where they lay their head down at night. However for one Fort Stewart command sergeant major, 'home is where your heart is.'

"When I think of Fort Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division, I think of home. There is no better way to describe it," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Berhane, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3RD ID.

For 14 of his 26 years of service Berhane has been part of the Fort Stewart community. Originally stationed at Fort Stewart in 1985 as a corporal assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, he has witnessed vast changes on Fort Stewart and Hinesville over the years.

"You wouldn't believe how much of the post has changed. The biggest was when the Army went to the modular combat brigades and the 3rd ID came here replacing the 24th Infantry Division," Berhane said.

Fort Stewart and the surrounding area

has grown since he first reported to the installation. "When I first got here, outside of base there was nothing," said Berhane. "You can not even say that it was a small town, there might have been a gas station, but now it's become a boom town."

He was first exposed to the 3 ID while stationed in Germany. Berhane joined the division again on Fort Stewart and has risen through the ranks within the division.

He was the command sergeant major for 3rd Squadron 7th Cavalry, 3rd ID during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and later served as 2nd BCT command sergeant major for two subsequent Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments.

"Iraq has changed so much. It's been surreal seeing the change over there," said Berhane. "At first it was the initial surge into Iraq, and the 2nd BCT was leading the liberation of the country."

During his second deployment to Iraq, he recalled seeing a major change in the newly liberated country.

"Baghdad was still smoldering, but

things had greatly settled down from how it was in the first deployment. Most of the major Shia uprising had settled down. That deployment was mostly about rebuilding the country and the newly created government," Berhane said.

In the most recent deployment as part of the 'surge' 2nd BCT, 3 ID deployed to Forward Operating Base Kalsu, and served in the Triangle of Death--what was considered to be one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq.

"Things in Iraq had gone south, around FOB Kalsu many improvised explosive devices had to be cleared from the area, as well as constant attacks from insurgents," said Berhane. "Definitely no deployment is the same."

During the end of the most recent deployment Berhane was encouraged with the changes that were happening in Iraq, most of the major attacks had ceased and major training of Iraq military and police was underway.

"No matter where Sgt. Maj. Berhane goes I'd serve by him," said Col. Terry Ferrell, 3 ID chief of staff. During OIF I

Ferrell commanded 3/7 Cav. During the most recent OIF deployment he served alongside Berhane as the 2nd BCT commander.

During the deployments Ferrell said he and Berhane developed a close working relationship.

"We have a bond where he knows what I'm thinking and I know what he's thinking," Ferrell said.

Berhane agreed.

"It has truly been an honor to serve with Colonel Ferrell. He is absolutely a true warrior," said Berhane.

Berhane will be leaving Fort Stewart to serve as garrison command sergeant major for Fort Belvoir, Va.

Having served as command sergeant major for nearly 800 Soldiers with 3/7 Cav. and more than 3,000 Soldiers for 2nd BCT, Berhane said he is very proud of all of the Soldiers he has served with and the amazing things they are capable of doing.

I love this job, being a Soldier and serving for Soldiers, there is no other job I'd rather do," Berhane said.

Sergeant proud to pass knowledge down to Soldiers

Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Seven years of foot marches, numerous nights in the woods, and pulling security in the rain, sleet, snow, or hail is how Staff Sgt. Andrew Debastiani, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, described his time served in the U.S. Army's infantry. The staff sergeant said that some may view the tasks that come along with being

in the infantry as rough, harsh, or just plain undesirable, but to "real" infantrymen, it's just their way of life.

Debastiani said Soldiers of the infantry world take pride in being proficient in special skills and warrior tasks that their military occupational specialty requires. He said that once Soldiers complete the strenuous prerequisites, training and testing to earn their Expert Infantry Badge, their status as an infantryman is raised immediately.

"Earning the EIB is a huge stepping stone for an infantryman. It sets him aside from his peers as well as symbolizes that he is an expert at his craft," Debastiani said.

Debastiani, who in 2001 earned his EIB, is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 'react to fire' station at Fort Stewart's EIB training this year.

"It really makes me feel proud to be able to

pass on the knowledge and experience I have as an infantryman to these younger Soldiers," he said. "To know I'm helping them to achieve something so prestigious is fulfilling to me."

Debastiani said that though it can be tiring as well as strenuous, the Soldiers usually enjoy the training.

"I remember how excited I was at my first duty station, Fort Bragg. I began training for my EIB just two days after I got there, so I relate well with the Soldiers' enthusiasm," he said. "A lot of the time I find myself feeding off of their motivation," he added.

Debastiani says that the tasks and training required to earn the EIB have not changed much over the years.

"The standard is still the same; these Soldiers are working just as hard to earn their EIB as I had to earn mine. The only difference that I can see is in the equipment; we wore the LCEs as opposed to their IBAs, but that's it," he said.

Debastiani changed his MOS to geospatial engineer in 2008 when he was found medically unable to serve in the infantry. He now works in the 2nd BCT engineer cell, although he will remain an infantryman at heart and is proud to help train Soldiers to become expert infantrymen.



Pfc. Crystal Bradley

Staff Sergeant Andrew Debastiani, HHC, 2nd BCT, briefs Sgt. Michael Davis, HHC, 1/30th Inf. before Davis begins his run on the 'react to fire' station during the EIB training, Jan. 26 at Marne Obstacle Course.



Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Ebony Fashion Fair Show Trip

8 Feb., 5 - 11 p.m. - Depart FS Youth Center for Savannah Civic Center
Ebony Fashion Fair is described as the world's largest traveling fashion show. Child, Youth & School Services members (ages 11-18) can see what's hip, what's hot and what's now. Cost is \$30 per person. Event is hosted by the Savannah State University National Alumnae Association. 767-4491 or 767-4493.

T-Ball Coach Pitch Baseball Registration @ HAAF

9 Feb. thru 13 March - Youth Center, Bldg 1289
Register for the Hunter Youth T-Ball/Baseball season which begins in mid-April and continues through mid-June. Play is for coed teams ages 5-12 and will be held at Hunter and the Jewish Educational Alliance in Savannah. Cost is \$25 per player. 315-3831.

Mardi Gras Sunday Brunch @ HAAF

15 Feb., 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Hunter Club, Bldg 6015
Join us for a taste of New Orleans in Georgia. Menu features breakfast items, gumbo w/white rice, Creole chicken, dirty rice, Muffalata & Po Boy sandwiches, ham hocks & red beans, crepe station w/assorted fillings, king cake, crème Brulee and beignets. Cost \$11.95 per person, children (ages 5-10) half price and (ages 4 & under) Free. 459-7923.

Mardi Gras Kids Cooking Class @ HAAF

15 Feb., 3 - 5 p.m. - Hunter Club, Bldg 6015
Join us for an afternoon of fun, games, crafts and more. Cost \$5 per child (ages 5-12). Reservations required (Limited space), call 459-7923.

Holocaust Survivor Speaker for CYSS Program @ HAAF

19 Feb., 7 - 8 p.m. - Hunter Club, Bldg 6015
Chaim Melemed, who was in a concentration camp during World War II as a teenager, will tell of his experiences. Considering subject matter, parent advisory recommended. Talk concludes with a Q&A session. Prior to that (5:30-6:30 p.m.) educator/author Jill Dixon will speak, plus science activities by Benedictine Military School. Child, Youth & School Services program will include discussion on starting a home school support group at Hunter. Refreshments available. 315-6586.

Truths & Myths of Credit Reports

18 Feb, 2 - 3:30pm - Stewart-ACS, Bldg 86
Learn what is and is not included in your credit report and score, and how credit bureaus collect and organize information about you and your credit history for public records, your creditors, and other sources. Learn what is considered potentially negative on your credit report and your rights as a consumer to dispute items. 767-3276

Author To Be Adult Book Club Guest @ FS

19 Feb., 7 - 8 p.m. - George P. Hays Library, Bldg 411
Lisa Dumas Harris, an author and owner of the small publishing company, Independent Visions of Richmond Hill, will be a guest at the Book Club for Adults. Harris is the author of the fiction novels "Only Time Can Tell," "Finding My Way" and "It Ain't Easy." Club, normally limited to 20 patrons, is open to anyone interested in meeting. Harris. 767-4840 or 767-2828.

"Tell Me a Story" Program for Young Children @ FS

Reservations by 19 Feb.; Program 22 Feb., 2 p.m. - Club Stewart, Bldg 405
Come listen to "Tell Me A Story," a story of young boy who along with his family works at a painful salt mine, but more than anything else wants to learn to read. Each attending Family receives copy of book. Open to DoD ID cardholders. Program designed to empower youth (grades K-5) and foster skills for resilience, strong peer and parent connections, sense of pride and accomplishment. Collaboration between Military Child Education Coalition & FS/HAAF CYSS. Limited Space. Reserve space by 19 Feb @ (912) 385-3564 or "andyandruth28@aol.com". 767-6533.

Knighthawk Stakes train Soldiers

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

An alarm sounds and a group of 10 Soldiers quickly find and don their protective masks. The first to finish begins waving his hands giving the “gas, gas, gas,” hand and arm signal till an instructor finally announces “all clear.”

This is not a real event; it is only a test.

It is day three of Knighthawk Stakes, a training exercise for Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. The exercise began Jan. 27 and took place at Saber Hall on Hunter Army Airfield.

“You can’t wait till you need to know a task, before you try to learn it,” said Spc. Erik Walters, a crew chief in Company B, 2/3 Avn. “We’re getting a lot of new people in the battalion. We have to make sure they are trained and ready to do these tasks, so we can be sure that they can do it when they’re called upon. I personally teach a class on the installation of the canister on the pro-mask, and I cover responding to a nuclear attack. Other classes that are covered are responding to chemical and biological attacks, putting on (mission-oriented protective posture) gear, MOPP gear exchange and first aid, which includes the atropine auto-injectors.”

The stakes also includes training on communication, medical, M9 and M16 weapons and combat survivor evader locator skills.

The previous two Knighthawk Stakes were conducted while the unit was deployed in Iraq, making this stakes the first the unit has done since their return home last July.

“The ones we did in Iraq were competitions,” said Walters. “There it was about getting through the task and seeing who was the most proficient at it. Now, instead of testing proficiency, we’re training and teaching proficiency.”



Spc. Monica Smith

Staff Sergeant Nestor Lugo, member of Co.D, 2/3rd Avn. talks to Soldiers in 2/3rd Avn., about the M16 rifle during Knighthawk Stakes, Jan. 29 at Saber Hall on Hunter Army Airfield.

“This is to refresh us on warrior task skill sets,” said Capt. Antonio Blue, who works as the battalion S3 and organized the stakes. “With the influx of new Soldiers, some of them coming right out of school, this event exposes them to weapons, (nuclear, biological and chemical), and medical tasks they will need to know.”

Blue said the stakes are described as “crawl, walk, run,” with crawl describing the level one tasks performed during this Knighthawk Stakes. Time permit-

ing, the battalion will gradually move to the “walk” and “run” stages representing additional Knighthawk Stakes, which will incorporate higher level tasks. Blue said 75-80 percent of the battalion participated in the stakes, which he said was a success.

“It was all Soldier led,” said Blue. “These instructors busted their butts to get their classes done and that’s what made it a success. I can’t take all the credit.”